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August 18, 1995

Mary Rugala, Esquire
Senior Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
841 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-4431

Re: Keystone Sanitation Superfund Site

Dear Mary:

Enclosed are additional news articles referencing bottled water and the ATSDR report. One cites to an ATSDR employee. Hal Yates is widely quoted in the other, including that the action followed an ATSDR advisory which he says was received in June. That would be news to me since nobody referenced that advisory in our various conference calls.

With this background, please determine whether such a report was submitted and please provide Joel Burcat and me with copies.

Sincerely yours,

REED SMITH SHAW & McCLAY

By

Robert B. Hoffman

RBH:ngw

Enclosures

cc: Joel Burcat, Esquire (w/enclosure)

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GETTYSBURG TIMES, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1993

EPA says three families will get water, one refuses

By ROBERT HOLT
Times Staff Writer

Three households in Union Township are being given bottled water after high levels of a toxic chemical were found in the residential wells, federal environmental officials said Wednesday.

While acting to protect the public health, said Harold Yates, a spokesman at the Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Philadelphia, a fourth resident rejected the offer of water, although the household was deemed eligible for an alternate water source as a result of a study on off-site contamination near the Keystone Sanitation Co. landfill Superfund site.

One township household within two miles of the landfill placed on the EPA's Superfund list in 1987 started receiving bottled water this week, Yates said. Two other families will be

receiving the water supply under the Superfund law as soon as the arrangements can be made, said the spokesman at EPA's regional headquarters in Philadelphia.

The water is to be used for cooking and drinking by the families, whose identities have not been released.

Yates said the action was the result of an advisory EPA received in June from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. That advisory was based upon well water samples that showed levels of thallium, a neuro-toxin, used in rat poison, until it was banned in 1970, in excess of a three parts per billion safety limit.

Officials at the Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, which is part of the U.S. Public Health Service, said they recommended bottled water for the four families out of concern for potential long-term health risks from drinking the water containing thallium in excess of the federal maximum contaminant

level.

Yates said the thallium levels were intermittent and have not been consistently above the maximum levels set by law.

The EPA spokesman said there were many questions that still need to be answered. He said he did not know how long the families will receive the bottled water, and what would be the criteria for ending the alternative water source.

Yates said he does not know if the thallium found in the residential wells can be directly attributed to the RSC landfill, which has been a Superfund site since 1987 and now in the process of clean-up.

Getting a decision by federal officials to supply some township residents with potable water is a victory for local officials and environmentalists. They have

been asking for a community water source for the past several years and demanded it in even stronger terms during a meeting with EPA and health officials a couple of months ago.

Yates said he did not know the cost of supplying bottled water to a family for drinking and cooking. But it is likely to be added to the cost of the landfill cleanup if the thallium found in the residential wells can be traced to the landfill.

Health advisory issued

Union Township homes
should be given
bottled water, officials say

From Staff Reports

Federal health officials are advising that four families in Union Township should receive an alternate home water source because of contamination levels in residential wells.

Shira Flax at the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a bureau of the U.S. Public Health Service, said Tuesday her agency recommended bottled water for homes near the Keystone Sanitation Co. Landfill Superfund site.

The homes, which were not identified, are within the area of a second Environmental Protection Agency clean-up study started last year.

That study is focusing on off-site contamination surrounding the landfill named to the federal Superfund list in 1987.

Results of water samples taken in January showed thallium above three parts per billion at four homes, a level that registry officials say warrants some action.

Flax said thallium is a neuro-toxin once used as rat poison until its use was banned in 1970.

She said the concern raised in the registry's June advisory was possible long-term effects at the four residences using the tainted water supply.

"In the future, if they continue to drink the water, their health could be affected," she said.

EPA officials working on the landfill case could not be reached for comment last week or this week.

The environmental officials must be able to prove thallium levels found in residential wells named in the federal health officials' advisory can be traced to the landfill.

If they cannot do that, the landfill owners and other potentially responsible parties named in the KSC Superfund suit may not be held liable.